



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett  
Southern District of Indiana**

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CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 229-2409; Cell (317) 716-4250

tim.horty@usdoj.gov

## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES FEDERAL CHARGES AGAINST VERMILLION COUNTY MAN**

*U.S. Attorney says prosecution of illegally-armed felon is part of Violent Crime Initiative*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

CLINTON – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today the federal indictment of Danny K. Hight, age 46, of Vermillion County. Hight has been charged by a grand jury with illegally possessing firearms as a convicted felon, and he now faces up to a decade in prison.

“Two years ago, this Office pledged to federally prosecute more illegally-armed felons than ever before,” Hogsett said. “Our success in that effort has been due to cases similar to what has been alleged here – collaborative investigations targeting career criminals who view our local jails as their personal revolving door.”

The indictment alleges on October 11, 2012, law enforcement found Hight to be in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun. Hight is a convicted felon, and therefore is not legally entitled to possess a firearm. His extensive criminal history includes convictions in Vermillion County for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, residential entry and criminal recklessness. He also has prior convictions in Marion County and Hancock County on charges of forgery and burglary.

This prosecution comes as part of the U.S. Attorney’s Violent Crime Initiative, and is the result of a collaborative investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as Vermillion County law enforcement.

Announced in March of 2011, the Violent Crime Initiative represents a district-wide strategy to work with local law enforcement and county prosecutors to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities. The VCI has produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges brought federally. In the year

preceding the initiative, there were just 14 defendants charged with federal gun crimes by the U.S. Attorney's Office. In the nearly two years since, more than 200 defendants have been charged.

"Through our Violent Crime Initiative, and in working with our law enforcement partners here in Vermillion County, we're sending a united message that illegally-armed felons will face the full force of federal law," Hogsett added.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Rinka, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Hight faces up to ten years in federal prison if he is convicted, as well as substantial fines. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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